

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 /014 W

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R 091235Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9675

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 2299

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, TD, IDB

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: IDB HEALTH PROGRAM

REF: KA) STATE 202432, KB) 75 PORT OF SPAIN 944

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES CLARIFICATION REF (A).

2. PROJECT CONSISTS OF TOTAL OF 31 HEALTH CENTERS CLASS A, B, AND C, TO BE BUILT THROUGHOUT TRINIDAD, AND EXPANSION SAN FERNANDO HOSPITAL. TO DATE, BIDS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FOR ONLY 7 OF 31 CENTERS. THESE HAVE NOT BEEN AWARDED AS YET. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER ROTHROCK INTERNATIONAL HAS PREQUALIFIED FOR BIDS OR ACTUALLY SUBMITTED BIDS ON THIS FIRST ROUND.

3. IN DISCUSSION WITH OFFICIAL OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT IDB HAD RULED THAT BIDDERS NOT ALREADY PREQUALIFIED COULD NOT BID ON REMAINING PORTIONS OF PACKAGE, SINCE PREQUALIFICATION WAS FOR ALL 31 PROJECTS. HOWEVER, IDB PROJECT SPECIALIST ON THIS LOAN SAID THIS WAS UP TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH, NOT IDB, AND THIS WOULD APPARENTLY BE DECIDED WHEN THEY WERE READY TO CALL FOR BIDS ON THE NEXT ROUND (PROBABLY 12 ADDITIONAL CENTERS).

4. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT IF ROTHROCK NOT ALREADY PRE-QUALIFIED FOR THESE PROJECTS, IT WRITE DIRECTLY TO IDB PROJECT DIRECTOR, MINIISTRY OF HEALTH, 35-37 SACKVILLE STREET, PORT OF SPAIN, AND REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS. EMBASSY
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BELIEVES THAT USG WHOULD IF POSSIBLE ENCOURAGE IDB TO PRESS

FOR ADDITIONAL PREQUALIFICATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT
OF SHORT DEADLINE ON PREVIOUS TENDER REPORTED REF (B).

5. FOR USG INFO ONLY, EMBOFF THOUGHT SHE DETECTED MUTUAL
IRRITATION OVER THIS LOAN IN CONVERSATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.
ASIDE FROM BUCK-PASSING ON WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR
BIDDING PROCEDURES NOTED ABOVE, MINHEALTH OFFICIAL ACCUSED
IDB OF HOLDING UP AWARDDING OF BIDS. IMPATIENCEOVER DELAYS
IN AWARDDING CONTRACTS ON PROJECT OF OBVIOUS POLITICAL VALUE
DURING AN ELECTION PERIOD IS OF COURSE UNDERSTANDDABLE,
REGARDLESS OF REASONS.

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